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PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

IRISH

ULSTER.

On Thursday the 29th ult. a meeting of the inhabitants of Belfast, was held to take into consideration a plan for the abolition of mendicancy in this town, conformable to a paper previously circulated, of which a copy is given (page 435 in this number). At this meeting it was agreed that a house should be procured for a repository and sales-room, where work of all descriptions should be provided for those who applied, that they should be paid for their labour, and if through inability they were incapable of earning a sum sufficient for their maintenance, the deficiency should be supplied. The funds are to be raised by a voluntary subscription. The Sovereign, who presided at the meeting, has also offered in the name of the corporation, a sum of from 3 to 400*l.* which had been vested in them for the use of the poor, to be applied to the augmentation of the revenues. A committee of thirty-one gentlemen has been nominated, and it is confidently expected that the exertion now made will have the happiest effects, by providing work for those who are able and willing to help themselves, and by clearing the streets of the number of idle sturdy vagrants that at present infest them; as it is to be hoped that no person will through a mistaken benevolence, bestow alms to strolling beggars, when a place is provided in which adequate means of support are afforded them.

Among the public occurrences since our last, we are sorry to recount the incalculable loss to the proprietors of the Belfast Mills, occasioned by that very extensive building, stored with grain and flour, having been reduced to ashes.

Within a space of little more than twelve months, the facility of travelling has greatly increased in this part of Ireland. The following Coaches now leave Belfast for the following places, at the following times:

THE MAIL-COACH, for Dublin, starts every morning from the Donegall-arms, at 10 o'clock.

THE NEWRY-FLY, starts from the Donegall-arms, on the mornings of Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at half past 9 o'clock, and returns next day.

THE MAIL-COACH, for Donaghadee, every afternoon at 5.

THE MAIL-COACH, for Colerain and Derry, through Templepatrick, Antrim, Randalstown, Ballymena and Ballymoney, every afternoon at 5.

A DAY COACH to Colerain belonging to the same proprietors, at 8 o'clock on the mornings of Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and returns from Colerain on the evenings of Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday.

A COACH for Cookstown through Templepatrick, Antrim, Randalstown, Toome, Castledawson, Magherafelt and Money-more, on the mornings of Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 8 o'clock, and returns on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.

JOHN M'Coy's COACHES through Lisburn, Moira, and Lurgan, at 8 o'clock in the morning, and thence on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays to Armagh, and on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays to Newry, returning from each place on the alternate days to Lurgan, and forming a communication on 6 days in the week, between Belfast and Lurgan.

A COACH from Lisburn comes in on the mornings of Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, at 11 o'clock, and returns on the evenings of the same days at 5.

THE HIBERNIA COACH, starts from the Donegall-arms, at 8 o'clock, on the mornings of Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and runs through Templepatrick, Antrim, Randalstown, Ballymena and Ballymoney, to Colerain.

CARRICKFERGUS-COACH, starts from Mr. Samuel Kennedy's, at the Exchange, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 5 o'clock in the evening.

MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

ANTRIM....*Married*...Mr. J. Weatherp, of Carrickfergus, to Miss Susan Johnson, of Ballynure. At Belfast, the Rev. F. May, rector of Belfast, to Miss Sinclair, eldest daughter of the late W. Sinclair, of Donegall-place, esq. S. J. Pittar, esq. of Dublin, to Miss Margaret M'Neil, of Larne. Mr. W. Orr, linen-merchant, of Belfast, to Mary, daughter of the late Mr. R. Smith, of this town.

Died....At Ballycraig, near Carnmoney, aged 109, Eleanor Guthrie: she retained her faculties to the last, and was able to read without spectacles, till within a few days of her death. In Lisburn, aged 53, Mrs. Isabella Smith wife of W. Smith, esq. If to have fulfilled the duties of life, as a truly affectionate wife and mother is "to prove by the ends of being to have been," she was justly entitled to that praise. In Belfast, on Wednesday, the 25th ult. Mr. P. Connor, notary public and master in chancery; a man whose liberality of sentiment and benevolence of heart entitled him to the esteem of the good among men: his funeral was attended by a very numerous and respectable class of the inhabitants of this town and neighbourhood.

ARMAGH....*Died*....Aged 66, Mrs. C. Pooler, of Tyrone.

CAVAN....*Married*...S. Moore, of Moorehall, esq. to Miss Nesbitt, only daughter of Colonel Nesbitt, of Lisner.

L. DERRY....*Married*...Capt. E. Powell, to Miss Cannon, late of Aughnacloy.

LEINSTER.

DUBLIN...Married...Dr. Duke, of the Wicklow Militia, to Miss Face, of Babbington. Charles Helwis Laton, esq. of the 1st Dragoons, to Harriet, second daughter of Col. Hugh Stafford. Mr. W. Hull, of Belfast, to Miss Maria Brunton, daughter of T. Brunton, esq. Brow of the Hill, near Dublin.

Died....At Liffey-street Chapel, the Rev. T. A. Clarke; this young clergyman, who has distinguished himself so much in this city for his piety and talents, was the youngest son of Captain Clarke, near Lisbourn. He had been educated a Protestant, but joined the Catholic profession.—He became a student of the Irish College at Lisbon, in 1793, where he made his courses of philosophy and Divinity, and became remarkable for his reasoning powers and excellent judgment.—His benevolence extended to all—to the widow, whose tears he dried, and to the orphan, to whom he was a father. In composing and preparing his discourses, he possessed wonderful facility. Sutely intent on profiting his hearers, he was in a great measure careless of ornament: His style was plain though pure, his reasoning accurate and conclusive, and his subjects methodical and judiciously arranged. As his ideas were his own, his sermons did not commonly embrace general topics, but went either to prove and elucidate the tenets of his religion, or were vehement and pointed exhortations against the prevailing vices of the day. It was in the ardent and unremitting exercise of sincere piety and elevated talents that he was visited by an early death, in the prime of life, before he counted many years. The esteem in which this excellent man was held by every order of the community, could not be better exemplified than by the numerous and respectable procession which accompanied his remains to the grave. There were upwards of 1100 gentlemen with scarfs, and more than 150 coaches, independent of an immense populace, who conducted themselves with the most creditable decorum.

KING'S CO...Married...R. Ledger, of Birr, esq. to Miss White, of the same town.

LOUTH...Married...R. Hamill, of Drogheda, esq. to Rossetta, second daughter of W. Dardis, of Belgreen, Co. Meath, esq.

MEATH...Married...William Armstrong, esq. capt. 2d heavy German Dragoons, to Miss Hopkins, daughter of J. Hopkins, of Dances-court, esq.

MUNSTER.

CLARE....Married...At Rennis, W. H. Roberts, esq. of the 85th Regt. to Miss

Fitzgerald, daughter of the Rev. M. Fitzgerald.

LIMERICK...Married...W. Browne, of the Londonderry Militia, esq. to Miss Bennett, only daughter and heiress of the late J. Bennett of Quarry-hill, esq.

WATERFORD...Married...The Rev. W. Price to Miss Graham, of Capel-street, Dublin.

CONNAUGHT.

GALWAY...Married...John Rosengreve, jun. of Gort, esq. to Miss Martin, of same place.

MAYO...Died...At Knockmore, aged 25, Mrs. Ormsby, wife of Lieut. Col. Ormsby, of the R. Mayo Militia.

BRITISH.

The London Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufacture and Commerce, have communicated a desire to the Dublin Society, that specimens of marble may be sent to their Rooms in the Adelphi; and also have proposed a premium of a gold medal, one hundred guineas value, for the discovery of a quarry of white marble, fit for the purpose of statuary, and equal to those kinds imported from Italy.

Died....At Bramham, near Wetherby, Henry Childerson, aged 102. For 70 years he had been a daily labourer, and partaker of the bounty of the hospitable mansion of J. Fox, esq. of Bramham-park; in his diurnal journeys to and from which it has been calculated that he had travelled the length of three times round the world. At Chelsea, Sir W. Henry Douglas, Bt. vice-admiral of the blue. He is succeeded by his brother, now Sir Howard Douglas, a lieutenant-colonel in the army, and commandant of the Royal Military College of High Wycombe. In London, T. Andrews, of Belfast, esq. a magistrate for the county of Antrim, and one of the Managers of the Academical Institution in Belfast.

Died...At Walthamstow, in the 81st year of his age, David Barclay. We extract from his character, as given in one of the London Papers, the following instance of his benevolence exerted towards the long oppressed Africans: "No man was ever more active than David Barclay, in promoting whatever might ameliorate the condition of man—largely endowed by Providence with the means, he felt it his duty to set great examples; and when an argument was set up against the emancipation of the negroes from slavery, 'that they were too ignorant and barbarous for freedom,' he resolved, at his own expense, to demonstrate the fallacy of the imputation. Having had an estate in Jamaica fall to him, he determined, at the expense of 10,000*l.* to emancipate

the whole *gang* (as they are termed) of slaves. He did this with his usual prudence as well as generosity. He sent out an agent to Jamaica, and made him hire a vessel, in which they were all transported to America, where the little community was established in various handicraft trades. The members of it prospered under the blessing of his care, and lived to show that the black skin inclosed hearts as full of gratitude, and minds as capable of improvement as that of the proudest white. Such was the conduct of this English merchant! During all this course of well-doing, his own manners were simple, his hospitality large and his charities universal."

MRS. ANNE SEWARD.

This well known and justly celebrated literary character, was the only daughter of the Rev. Mr. Seward, rector of Egam in Derbyshire, a gentleman who had presented himself to the public as an author.

His daughter gave early intimations of a superiority of talent; and these as might be expected, were carefully fostered by the attentive cares of her parent, who seized the earliest opportunity of impressing on her infant mind, a taste for polite literature, and poetry in particular. So well were his exertions aided by her natural powers, that at the age of three years, she could recite the *Allegro* of Milton; and before she was ten, could repeat a large portion of the *Paradise* lost.

Her early turn for poetry, which even at that age showed itself in attempts at the composition of verse, was not, however uncontrolled. She was prevailed upon by her mother to restrain, and almost wholly relinquish her favourite pursuit. In this perhaps she was fortunate; for guided and instigated by one parent, those studies would most probably have arrogated an uncontrolled dominion over her mind, to the exclusion of other occupations, not less valuable, though less brilliant, had they not been curbed by the checks imposed on them by the other.

Yet poetry was still the amusement of her leisure hours. She wrote with great ease and facility. On the death of her only sister she composed an elegy when sitting in the garden. The first publication that brought her into public notice, was an elegy on the Death of Captain Cook, which was deservedly admired, and is now to be met with in several miscellaneous selections of poetry, this, together with an ode to the Sun, was published in the year 1780. Soon after appeared a monody for the death of the unfortunate Major André. It is needless to

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give an opinion of these poems, their merits are too well ascertained to require any further comment. They attracted no small degree of attention from the admirers of this fascinating branch of letters, and obtained the decided approbation of the celebrated Dr. Darwin.

Some other poems and a novel named *Louisa*, have since been published by her. She also translated, or to speak more correctly, paraphrased some of the odes of Horace, in a manner which gives a strong proof of the correctness of her taste, and the vivacity of her imagination.

Her last production is a life of her former friend and literary admirer, the late Dr. Darwin. It is peculiarly pleasing to study the lives of great men, written either by themselves, or by those who have had opportunities of forming a just estimate of their character, and illustrating it by characteristic anecdotes, which can only be known to a friend.

Bath, March 25, 1809.

A beautiful young lady, in a neighbouring city, was lately rescued from the most imminent danger of being burned to death. As the method of her preservation from this dreadfully calamitous situation might be successfully adopted in like cases, a minute detail of all the circumstances ought to be generally known. Her muslin dress, being touched by a candle, caught fire, and the flame instantly blazed above her head. Fortunately two of her sisters were in her chamber. One sister, with a long and strong pair of scissors, blunt at both points, with great expedition and steady resolution, cut through all her clothes on the hind part of her neck, all down her back; that is, through her gown, her stays, in the space between two whalebones, her shift, and the bindings of her petticoats. As one sister was thus employed, the other slit up the gown at the wrists, and then immediately, with a pair of tongs from the fender, took firm hold of the clothes on fire, upon the fore part of the neck, and pulled them forcibly forward, and downward from the shoulders; when all the garment instantly dropped off upon the floor, and were thrown into the chimney in a blaze. The time between the commencement of the fire, and till the young lady was rescued from all danger, was less than two minutes. The flame had scorched her face and neck, so as to be very painful for some hours, but not even a blister had arisen. A delay of but a few minutes longer, would have occasioned incurable mischief; either death or deformity must

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have been the inevitable consequence. It may be proper to explain how these measures of prevention were so promptly and effectually executed. All the sisters had previously received complete instructions from their parents, in what method to proceed in such a dreadful emergency, if their muslin dress should catch fire. They had frequently consulted together how to act in the moment of alarming danger. Each of them had provided a proper pair of scissors for the purpose. It is impossible to express the extasy of joy which the sisters and parents expressed upon this happy occasion. They united in fervent thanksgivings to Providence for this wonderful deliverance from so dreadful a calamity.

BEILBY PORTEUS, D.D. BISHOP OF LONDON.

This celebrated, and truly respectable divine, was the son of a reputable tradesman in Yorkshire. He was born in the year 1731. After having received a school education at Rippon, he entered Christ's College, where he distinguished himself by assiduous application, devoting himself, even at that early period, to the studies required for the due performance of the sacred functions which he was one time to perform with so much honour to himself, and advantage to the ministry. This conduct will appear more laudable, if contrasted with that of so many candidates for holy orders, who frequently postpone the preparation until after their appointment. Nay, we have even instances of some who have extended their cautious scruples so far, as not to assume a deacon's orders until the death of the incumbent whom they were to succeed prevented the possibility of being disappointed in the pecuniary emoluments to which they looked forward.

In the year 1755, Mr. P. was elected one of the Fellows, and appointed a preacher at Whitehall chapel. In four years after, he obtained the Seatonian prize poem for the best composition on death. It is the only essay of his pen in this species of composition; but as it has deservedly found a place in most selections of modern poetry, it is needless to comment on it here.

In 1761 he published a refutation of an essay entitled, "The History of the Man after God's own Heart," written by Peter Annet, with a view of exposing the sacred history to contempt, on account of the defects in the character of David. The answer to this appeared in the form of a sermon preached before the university of Cambridge. It is supposed that this discourse first introduced

him to the patronage of Archbishop Secker, who appointed him one of his domestic chaplains, and presented him to the living of Withesham, in Kent, and shortly after to the rectory of Bucking, in the same county; as also to a prebend's stall in the cathedral church of Peterborough.

In the year 1765 he married Miss Hodgson, and obtained the living of Hunton, and shortly after that of Lambeth, which he was permitted to hold with the former.

On the death of his venerable patron he was engaged, together with his Grace's other chaplain, Dr. Stinton, in the revision and publication of the Lectures on the Church Catechism, Sermons, &c. To the latter of these was prefixed a life of the author, written by Dr. Porteus, which has been very much admired.

In 1776 he was raised to the episcopal bench, as is supposed by the immediate influence of the queen, to whom Dr. P. had been private chaplain. On attaining to this dignity, having observed the remissness with which Good Friday was observed in the metropolis, he published a tract called "An earnest Exhortation to the religious Observance of Good Friday; in a Letter to the Inhabitants of Lambeth." Although this Address was found fault with by some, as savouring too much of the rigid spirit of the last century, he had the satisfaction to find it had the desired effect. The Society for promoting Christian Knowledge, published and circulated a cheap edition in great numbers; by which means a more strict adherence to this anniversary has been since maintained.

In 1783, he pleaded the cause of the enslaved Africans, before the Society for propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts; and it must have afforded him the greatest satisfaction to have lived to see that measure accomplished, which he had been among the first to bring into public notice. In the same year he published a volume of sermons, to which he added a second the year after.

In 1787 he was translated to the see of London on the death of Bishop Lowth. Soon after his removal hither, he was the means of founding a society for the conversion of the Negro slaves in the West Indies, which has been attended with very happy effects. Indeed, his exertions to promote the cause he professed, have been unremitting, and pursued not only with perseverance but moderation. In order to check the spirit of infidelity which made such rapid progress, he delivered a course of Lectures on the truth

of the Gospel History and the Divinity of Christ, during the season of Lent 1798. These were attended by numbers, and the stile of his eloquence, simple, grave, and unaffected, joined to the importance of the subject, and the well-known character of the speaker, gave them a weight and efficacy which could not but be attended with the happiest effect.

His public preaching was not confined to these. He was always ready to assist

the public charities by his elocution; and during his residence in the country, frequently took a large share of the duty of public instruction. He has also published many small tracts on religious subjects, written for particular occasions.

He died in the 78th year of his age, leaving a shining example to all his successors in the sacred office, which cannot be too much admired, or too closely imitated.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From May 20, till June 20.

SINCE last report, the weather from being extremely hot, changed to wet, cold, and tempestuous, unusual at this season.

The crops on poor or light soils, which were suffering from the want of moisture, have been rather improved by the rain, and the general appearance indicates a tolerable produce.

Wheat in particular, looks well, the late sown crops, which at the beginning of the season appeared thin, have come forward beyond expectation.

In some districts where the land is flat, there are complaints of the potatoes having suffered by the late heavy rains, which rotted the sets in the drills. If farmers would get more into the practice of making the drill furrow very shallow, they would seldom suffer by wet weather, and the quality of their potatoes would be greatly improved by it; the writer of this report, has been many years in the habit of doing so, and experienced the best effects from the practice. To a defect in this respect is principally to be attributed the difference between the quality of potatoes raised in the drill and lazy bed way, so much complained of.

Great complaints of the flax crops are made over the whole country; and with too much justice; the prospect of a scarcity of that article never appeared so great as at the present moment; last year's crop was a bad one, and flax is now so scarce and dear that it is supposed there are not more than one half of the spinners employed at the wheel.

The new American seed that came late into the country, has the best appearance in the fields; but unless the season prove very favourable, there is not much reason to expect a good produce from such late sowing. In short if some favourable change does not take place, there is much reason for apprehending that our staple manufacture, will suffer from the want of the raw material.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

If the politician have to complain of blunders in the general mode of conducting the war, commercial men have no less reason to complain of the mode of carrying on the war against trade: and probably the errors in both cases may be traced in a considerable degree to the people, without exclusively confining the blame to administration.—It is generally confessed on all hands that the business of flax-seed has been miserably mismanaged this year. The British orders in council, roused the Americans to lay an embargo on their trade, and of course to prevent the exportation of flax-seed from that country. The internal restrictions on the trade of Russia, and Holland, likewise prevented our receiving a supply from those countries. In the prospect of these difficulties a meeting of linen drapers was invited to assemble at Armagh for the purpose of petitioning the executive and legislature to afford substantial relief by acting so towards America, as to induce her government to rescind the embargo; and by prudent and well timed concession remove the difficulties, which obstructed a full supply from that quarter. "No," say the majority at this meeting, preferring some undefined notions of loyalty, and of not interfering with the wisdom and infallibility of his Majesty's ministers, "we will not adopt this measure of petitioning; we will address Mr. Foster to remove our difficulties." Well! the Chancellor of the Irish Exchequer is addressed, in very indefinite terms, without clearly telling what is wanted; he feels the